

which will probably play a role of fundamental importance in the further development of certain central branches of mathematics.

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SHORTER NOTICES.

Opere di Evangelista Torricelli. Edited by GINO LORIA and GIUSEPPE VASSURA. Faenza, 1919, 2 volumes. Volume I, part 1, xxxviii + 408 pp.; part 2, iv + 482 pp. + plates; Volume II, iv + 322 pp. + plates.

OF those who sat at the feet of Galileo (1564–1642) and from him received instruction and inspiration, two were permitted to enjoy this privilege only in the last weeks of his life. One of these, Viviani (1622–1703), was fifty-eight years his junior and was only twenty years of age when the great teacher passed away. Viviani survived Galileo by sixty-one years, the lives of the two bridging a span of nearly a century and a half. With propriety as well as with pride he could say, in his later life, that he was “postremus Galilei discipulus.” In a way, however, Torricelli (1608–1647) could have said the same, for he too was one of the last of those who learned from the great master, although he died so early that he was not, like Viviani, the last disciple to pass away. Viviani signed his famous problem on the hemispherical dome by an anagram of the words “A postremo Galilei Discipulo,” while Torricelli was proud to observe that the letters of his own name could be transposed to form the sentence “En virescit Galileus alter.”

Of these two great disciples the more brilliant was Torricelli. With a span of life that was less than half as long as that of Viviani, he may be said to have accomplished twice as much, and the results of his labors have been set forth in the volumes under review.

Volume I, consisting of two parts, covers the work of Torricelli in the field of geometry and appears under the editorship of Professor Loria, while Volume II includes his academic lectures, his work in mechanics, and his writings in various minor lines, and is published “per cura” of Professor Vassura.